

# **Rhode Island Atomic Energy Commission**

**Meeting of January 2, 2013**

**6 Reactor Road**

**Narragansett, RI 02882**

**Dr. Mecca called the meeting to order at 9:10 AM. The following individuals were present at the meeting:**

**Rhode Island Atomic Energy Commission:**

**Dr. Stephen Mecca, RIAEC Chairman**

**Dr. Andrew C. Kadak, Commissioner**

**Dr. Anthony Nunes, Commissioner**

**Dr. Barahm Nassersharif, Commissioner**

**Dr. Peter L. Gromet, Commissioner was absent**

**Rhode Island Nuclear Science Center:**

**Mr. Jeffrey Davis, RINSC Assistant Director of Operations**

**Mr. Stephen Guarino, Assistant Director for Radiation and Reactor Safety**

**Ms. C. Hathaway, RINSC Staff**

## **1. Review of Recent Health Physics Recruitment Process**

**Dr. Mecca informed the Commission that he had conducted a review of the Health Physics (HP) recruitment and selection process. The review included:**

- 1. A meeting with Dr. Mannock of the DoA-HR Department and Mr. Guarino, AD-RSO at RINSC**
- 2. Discussions with Drs. Mannock and Nunes**
- 3. Brief telephone calls to a few of the candidates who had applied**
- 4. Review of the Recruitment file which indicated a number of qualified applicants some with graduate experience and degrees in the field**
- 5. Review of state qualifications for the HP position**
- 6. Review of several HP open positions**

**A motion to go into executive session to review a report on Dr. Mecca's findings on the process was made by Dr. Nassersharif and seconded by Dr. Nunes.**

**The Commission went into executive session.**

## **2. Closed Meeting Summary**

**Upon resumption of the open meeting, those present were informed of the results of the executive session by Dr. Mecca. There was a finding that discrepancies were found with the HP recruitment and**

selection process and that the Commission decided to re-open the HP recruitment process. He indicated that, during a recess in the executive session, he informed the person hired for the HP position that he was sorry that she was the victim of a faulty process and that the Commission had decided to re-open the search but permit her to stay until the position was filled. He indicated to those present that the person hired for the HP position did not meet the minimum qualifications for the position as stated in the state requirements and that educationally and experientially qualified applicants never made it to the short list. Mr. Davis argued that, if the incumbent HP isn't qualified then neither was her predecessor, to which Dr. Mecca responded, shame on the process that did that hire as well.

### **3. Other Business**

Dr. Kadak raised an issue regarding the staff not being ready for a scheduled class. Mr. Davis indicated he wasn't aware of such a situation though he thought of one occasion when a class arrived 45 minutes late pushing the reactor operation schedule back without appropriate planning for reactor operators. Also mentioned was a lab scheduled months in advance to use the HPGe detectors; it was discovered that two of these systems had been sent out for repair ~3 weeks before the scheduled lab and notice given to the instructor less than 2 weeks prior. The matter had been resolved through a series of emails but did result in a less effective lab due to oversized lab teams.

**An issue was raised regarding the teaching of a course during state time. Drs. Nassersharif, Kadak and Mecca questioned the appropriateness of such teaching. Dr. Nunes and Mr. Davis, arguing from the perspective that large portions of safety staff salaries are effectively paid by URI, indicated they thought such radiation-related teaching is appropriate especially since the staff involved has the expertise. Dr. Mecca indicated that a policy on staff teaching would be part of the agenda of a forthcoming meeting.**

**Dr. Mecca was briefly called away for a call from the state HR office during which Dr. Kadak indicated (and Mr. Davis agreed) that RINSC priorities should be: safe operation, facility relicensing, user satisfaction, facility utilization, investment in user needs and education outreach.**

**Upon Dr. Mecca's return , he asked members of the Commission to stay to be informed of the outcome of his telephone conversation. The meeting adjourned on a motion by Dr. Nassersharif, seconded by Dr. Kadak and unanimously passed by members present.**

**The meeting was adjourned at approximately 10:30 AM.**

**Respectfully Submitted,**

**Andrew C. Kadak**

**Commissioner**